

legal and living expenses ; and some who had been willing to help her were at present unable to do so, having lost authority, influence, and, at times., even means. Prance had passed through a revolution, Louis Philippe had been overthrown; unrest was widespread throughout the period of the Second Eepublic; and when Louis Napoleon strangled that *r'egime* in the night, Provence became convulsed, there were risings, excesses, bloodshed, even as fimile Zola subsequently depicted in the pages of " La Fortune des Rougon." The new municipality of Aix, appointed after the Coup d'lStat, was not inclined to effect any reasonable compromise with those Orldanist *proteges*, the Zolas. One on whom they had largely relied, Thiers, was himself virtually a fugitive. Again, in those days of trouble the law's delays became greater than ever; apart from which it would seem that Madame Zola's actions were altogether ill-conducted. Nevertheless, in the summer of 1852, though her affairs were taking a very unfavourable course, and it was becoming necessary to trench upon the Investments whence the Auberts derived their modest personal Income, it was at last decided to send Elmile to the College of Aix as a boarder; and the family, in order to be nearer to him, moved into the town, its new home being in the Hue Bellegarde.

The boy could now see that the family resources were diminishing. The last servant had been dismissed, and it was his grandmother, the still lively and sturdy Beauceronne, who attended to most of the housework. Moreover, she and her daughter had largely taken the lad into their confidence, and he, precociously realising that his future would most likely depend on his own exertions, resolved to turn over a new leaf. Though his love for the open air in no